

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## JOB RESOURCES

### ▶ CTWORKS CAREER CENTERS

A regional Career Center is located in Waterbury to provide guidance and services to those seeking employment. 203-437-3380

### ▶ CT JOBCENTRAL

An online job bank where individuals can search for jobs as well as upload their resume and access various employment-related information. 1-866-268-6206 or [www.jobcentral.org/ct](http://www.jobcentral.org/ct)

### ▶ UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

For an in-depth explanation of unemployment insurance and benefits call the TeleBenefits number in Waterbury. 203-596-4140

### ▶ MORE INFORMATION ONLINE

Visit our Web site for a one-stop source for additional links to the programs described here and additional employment search engines and job postings at [www.senatedems.ct.gov/Jobs](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/Jobs)

### ▶ WHERE TO TURN WHEN UNEMPLOYED

The United Way of Connecticut has produced a document titled "Where to Turn in Connecticut When You Become Unemployed." It contains information regarding unemployment insurance, medical benefits, legal assistance and help with job searches and money management. Contact my office at 1-800-842-1420 to receive this helpful publication or visit our Jobs Web page (see above) to download a copy.



## Additional Resources and Links

Follow links to these special pages from [www.senatedems.ct.gov](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov):

- ▶ **Protecting Homeowners, Preventing Foreclosures**
- ▶ **Veterans' Guide**
- ▶ **Health Care Programs in Connecticut**
- ▶ **A Guide to the State Budget**



### Husky Pride

I had the honor of congratulating UConn men's basketball MVP and champion Kemba Walker and all the men and women Huskies during the 2011 Husky Day at the State Capitol.

They make us proud!



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As we rapidly approach year-end, I once again write to share with you a summary of the 2011 legislative session and to report to you regarding my work on behalf of the families and taxpayers of the 15th District.

Without question, this past year has been unprecedented as families and businesses struggle with the chaotic effects of domestic and international financial markets and volatile employment conditions, only to be trumped by back-to-back storms which severely affected this state's economy. Consequently, my main focus has been to rebuild our state economy, grow sustainable jobs, protect municipal aide thereby preventing property tax hikes and keep government spending in check.

With the passage of a bipartisan Jobs Bill and an innovative bioscience initiative, this legislature took bold steps to build 21st century jobs which will change the face of Connecticut's economy.

In preparation for the 2012 legislative session I will be conducting office hours throughout the district. Please watch for schedule postings.

As always, the input and advocacy of the hardworking Waterbury, Prospect and Naugatuck families is vital to my work in representing you. It is my honor to serve the 15th District and to be your voice in Hartford.

I close with warmest wishes to you and your family for good health and happiness this holiday season and in the coming year.

Sincerely,

*Joan V. Hartley*  
Joan V. Hartley  
State Senator

### Please Keep In Touch

*In an effort to save taxpayer dollars, I have significantly cut back my correspondence to you...but it is vital that we communicate. So please consider sending your e-mail address to receive my e-newsletters and bulletins.*



State Senator  
**Joan Hartley**

Legislative Office Building, Room 1800  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
[www.SenatorHartley.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorHartley.cga.ct.gov)  
1-800-842-1420

Representing  
Naugatuck,  
Prospect &  
Waterbury



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WINTER 2011



# STATE SENATOR **Joan Hartley**

Serving Naugatuck, Prospect & Waterbury

WINTER 2011

## FOR OUR STATE & OUR COMMUNITY

### Learning From Two Extreme Storms



Connecticut was hard hit with two extreme storms nine weeks apart. In both instances hundreds of thousands of households lost power over extended periods of time. The large number of outages across the State has led to many questions regarding the utilities preparedness and performance. As Senate Chair of the Public Safety Committee I will be working with the Energy Committee and the governor's Two Storm Panel to ensure our state is better prepared in the future. While we have heard from the utilities, businesses, municipalities, emergency responders and others, I invite you also to share your input with me.

### Residents Should Report Storm Losses



Many people were affected by the October Nor'easter. Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) has set up a \$30 million fund to assist residential customers who were out of power for 7 days or longer. CL&P has begun accepting applications. To find out if you qualify for a credit of between \$100 and \$200, contact CL&P at 888-566-9257 or visit [www.cl-p.com](http://www.cl-p.com). All applications must be received by January 31, 2012. Credits will be applied to February's billing statement.



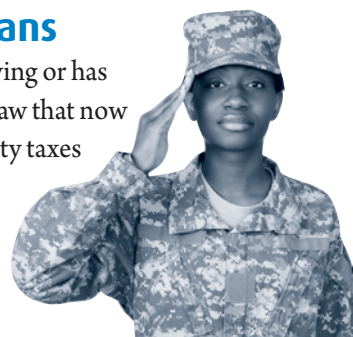
### Insurance & Real Estate Committee Holds Hearings on Storms

In addition to joint legislative hearings by the Energy and Public Safety committees on the storms, the Insurance Committee held a hearing to examine Connecticut residents' experience with their insurance carriers relative to claims generated from the two storms. The committee examined the process by which the industry responded to car, home and business owners on property claims in the wake of both storms. The committee is further reviewing complaints received by the Insurance Department from policy holders with respect to the industry's timeliness and fairness in servicing claims. This information will be used in preparation for the 2012 Session.

## VETERANS

### Fairer Taxes for Afghanistan Veterans

Maybe you have a family member or a friend who is serving or has served in the armed forces in Afghanistan. We passed a law that now requires cities and towns to waive the interest on property taxes owed by soldiers serving in Afghanistan. Armed forces members serving in other parts of the Middle East are also eligible for this waiver on property tax interest.



## GROWING CONNECTICUT JOBS

In recognizing that 80 percent of businesses in Connecticut are by definition small businesses (50 or less employees, 100 or less employees for manufacturers)—this is particularly true in the Naugatuck Valley and throughout the 15th District—and that all too often small businesses are unable to access capital to sustain and grow jobs, the legislature during a special October session passed a milestone bipartisan Jobs Bill. Major initiatives included in the bill are:

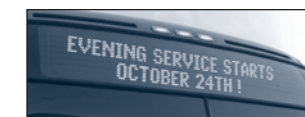
- ▶ **Business entity tax cut by 50 percent**
- ▶ **Streamlined state regulations**
- ▶ **Jobs Expansion Tax Credit (JET)** program combines and expands three existing job creation tax credit programs. Tax credits are increased to \$500 per month per new job and \$900 per month per hire for individuals who are unemployed, disabled or veterans. This law requires that applications be acted upon within 30 days of filing.
- ▶ The **Small Business Express Program** is a two-year, \$100 million funding program designed to provide loans, forgivable loans and matching grants to approved small businesses that create or retain jobs. The program also offers an expedited 30-day application process.
- ▶ **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Program) is designed to help employers find skilled workers and to bring the unemployed back into the workplace. Through this program, the cost of training or employee salaries are paid by the state. The program targets workers who are currently unemployed. Eligible individuals are from a city or town which has an unemployment rate of at least 9 percent or greater, or a population of more than 80,000.



With UConn President Dr. Susan Herbst at the ribbon-cutting and dedication of the newly refurbished courtyard on the UConn-Waterbury campus.



With D.O.T. commissioner and business leaders working to revitalize the Waterbury Train Station.



### Evening Bus Service Launched

After years of working to initiate evening bus service in Waterbury—the only big city in the state without

such service—the buses are now finally rolling. This could not have been accomplished without the diligent work of the Waterbury legislative delegation and the perseverance of the Naugatuck Valley Community College, Council of Governments and the strong advocacy of the ridership community.



## HEALTH CARE

### Insuring MRI's to Fight Breast Cancer



The Project Homeless Connect Fair in Waterbury included several mobile units, including St. Vincent's mammography truck. Left to right: Leslie Swiderski, R.N.; Linda Sapio-Longo; myself; and Debbie Samatulski, X-ray Technologist.

As the Vice Chair of the Insurance Committee and an original co-sponsor of MRI's for women with dense breast tissue, I have continued to work to improve this legislation. This year we adopted a new law which requires MRI coverage if a woman is at increased risk of breast cancer due to family history or prior personal history.

### Access to Your Medical Test Results

When patients are active and well-informed participants in their health care, they receive better results. We passed legislation this year that will require health care providers, except in limited circumstances, to supply a patient, upon request, with their medical test results, along with other information about their diagnosis or treatment. The bill will also require clinical laboratories to share test results with all of a patient's medical providers, upon the patient's request, so that medical care can be better coordinated and the same tests need not be repeated unnecessarily.



With Dr. Howard Mark at the two-day Connecticut Mission of Mercy mobile dental clinic that was brought to Waterbury this past spring through the perseverance and work of my office.